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### AN ASSORTMENT OF SURNAMES. [From Chambers's Journal ]

Family nomenclature is a subject of con siderable interest beyond the sphere of the etymologist and antiquary, of whose learned labors, however, we wish to speak with the greatest respect. Whence existing surnames have been derived, and the changes they have undergone, are points in the illustration of which much pains and patience have been expended. To use a comparison well understood in these days of mechanics and engineering, a broad highway has been carried through the midst of this special question; but we prefer just now turning aside into a bypath opened up by the registrar-general of England in his last annual report. That communicative functionary devotes a whole chapter to this topic; and as probably not one in a thousand of our countrymen will ever see the original, we propose to present, in a simplified and reclassified form, the curiosities of fact which he has placed at our disposal. We are first of all informed that in the department over which he presides, there is a registration of 21 000,000 names, all collected between the 1st of July, 1837, and the end of 1884. From the registration indexes thus possessed, the surnames at present borne in England and Wales could be pretty accurately ascertained; but the trouble involved in such an inquiry is sufficient to appal the Samson of statistics himself, who has limited his researches to two quarterly indexesone of births, and another of deaths-resulting in the discovery, that of 275,405 individuals registered, 32,818 had different surnamesshowing an average of 8 4 persons to every surname. It is then "assumed as a rough estimate, that the whole number of surnames in England and Wales is between 35,000 and 50,000," orthographical differences (as Clerk. Clark, Clerke) being allowed to pass for a dif-ference of name. The roots of surnames now in use would be found to fall considerably short of the above number. Wales and Cornwall differ from England in the constantly recurring sameness of the nomenclature; in the former, nine-tenths of the people, it is said, could perhaps "be mustered under less than 100 different surnames;" so that "the pri-mary object of a name, which is to distinguish an individual from the mass, is in danger of being lost."

By the aid of a table compiled from "nine

quarterly indexes of births, eight of deaths. and eight of marriages," we are enabled to see what the fifty most common surnames are. and the number of times each surname occurs. The Smiths, of course, are at the head of the poll, their name boasting 33,557 entries; but their supremacy is imperiled by the tribe of Joneses, who stand 33,341 strong. That of Williams numbers 21,936. Below 20,000 are arrayed the clans Taylor, Davies, Brown. Thomas, Evans, Roberts, and Johnson. The others have fewer than 10,000 followers, the lowest figure falling to Griffiths-4,639. These fifty names embrace nearly eighteen in every 100 of those registered—about one in six; and as the total entries of the fifty are 440,911, the nine indexes may be considered to contain about 2,500,000 entries-certainly a fair number from which to judge.

A second table deals with the same fifty surnames with reference to their origin, and furnishes the number of entries in the following

	101-		
De	rived from-	Names.	Entries.
	Christian or fore-names	27	246 032
**	occupations	13	120,691
46	locality	7	46,373
"	(White and Brown.)	2	22,154
**	other circumstances (King	) 1	5,661
1	Total		440,911

versus Jones, the registrar-general informs us that the whole of the indexes from 1838 to 1854 were searched "to determine the relative frequency" of these competing surnames; and the numerical issue is in favor of the Smiths. Of Smiths, the entries were 286,037; of Joneses, 282,900-a Smith majority of 3,137. In seven years, the Joneses were more numerous; in eleven years (including the last seven,) the Smiths; and so, as there is no reason against our siding with the winning party, we cry-Hurrah for the Smiths! Both tribes, however, are entitled to the deference which numbers can give them, since it is calculated that in England and Wales they include together not less than half a million persons-sufficient of themselves to people four towns as large as Birmingham, Bristol, Leeds and Hull. With respect to "the fifty most common surnames." we are favored with a further computation, which makes it appear that in 1853 England and Wales contained 3,253,800 persons bearing these family names; or, in other words, that about two in every eleven Englishmen and Welshmen are known among men by one or

other of these fifty surnames. More of these statistical curiosities are behind. Descending to the letters of the alphabet, we learn that "the letter B is the most frequent initial of surnames, being about 10 per cent. of the whole. H is above, and S and W nearly 9 per cent. N and K are lowest in the scale of proportion, excepting X and Z.

Here we might conclude our ramble, but we are tempted to prolong it on account of the singular scene which the indefatigable general of registrars lays before us. This is no other than a list of more than 2,000 peculiar surnames selected from the birth-indexes of the first quarter of 1851, and the death-indexes of the corresponding quarter of 1853. Very peculiar, in truth, many of these surnames are, and certain of affording a delightful feast to the lovers of the droll and the grotesque. In the book before us, they are placed in alphabetical order; but the amusement they offer is best secured by such an arrangement of them as will show the treasures of descriptive phraseology they comprise.

The classical deities live again in Bacchus, Mars, and Venus-a well matched trio; in Flora, Fortuna, Muse, and the Muses: the Phonix and the Griffin recall the fables of the East; while Mabb and Fay speak to us of myths that still linger in the villages of our land. Classical history is remembered in Damon and Dion; Hector and Troy are not yet extinct; neither is Rome nor the Roman name: and though Hannibal reappears, the honors of the Roman name are worthily committed to Cato, Scipio, and Cresar. who may trace in Dominey a fragment of the language in which they harangued and wrote.

Modern nationalities are pointed out by French and Gaul, Saxon, Dutch, and Dane. The Spaniard must be content with his Don, but the Turk comes in fir a name. North and South Africa are arbitrarily represented by Barbary and the Caffre; and the sound of Cashmere immediately connects in our thoughts the looms of that famous valley-kingdom with the spindles of our own.

Sacred Scripture, as might be supposed, has suggested several names, although the selec-tion is peculiar enough. Angel and Demon stand in contrast. Eve makes her entry, and under her protection, her scapegrace first-born Csin. Noah—the hale old man, "orphan of the old world, and father of the new"—is here; but whence comes Balaam, and stranger still Dives and Pharisee? As much out of place in another direction are Calvary and Pentecost. Heaven and Heavens, Saint and Sanctuary, Pricet and Prophet, with Christian itself, have clearly a Biblical origin; but to a later source we must refer Pagan, with Lent and Christmas. Church, with its compound Churchward and its less agreeable companion Churchyard, belong to a similar period; as do Abbot (not mentioned in this list) and Prior. There can be no doubt where Surplice, Spires, and Steeple

# Chrana

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Colic, Cramp, Fever, and the painful plural Fevers; but more cheerful thoughts of Balm and Balsam are not absent; while Heal and Cure shed a cheerful hue over the sable scene. Military operations for two years, have commanded a large sharge of public attention; but previous to these, and although we are not a soldier-nation, the list of surnames testifies to the belligerent tendency of our population. The Warrior and Cavalier issue from their Castle; they have their Arms offensive and defensive; Armor of Mail is provided, with the Shield. Honor is done to the Dart and the Arrow, England's once formidable and favorite weapon. The Dagger and Dirk are in request, with the Lance and the Sword. Thus equiped, the Gauntlet is ready; but besides all, we have the Gunner with his Gun; even Cannon of the largest calibre. Then waves the Banner. and

the way to Victory and Conquest. Naval matters are not overlooked. The Ship multiplies into Shipping, and it swells into a Fleet. The single vessel has its Keel and Deck, its Helm, its Middlemast, and Tackle; and for the Boat there must be the Oar. When launched, it can Float, and with a Chart may set out upon its Cruise, in the course of which it will often have to Tack before the Gale. Should a Tempest cause a Leak, the sailors will look with anxiety for a Harbor or Haven on the Mainland; and failing in this, even the most skillful Diver will be liable to Drown. Now, turning from the learned professions,

and the contingencies of land and sea, let us

then beats the Drum, while Slaughter leads

examine Man as a member of the great creation; and not small is the help which our English surnames will impart to that compound being in his endeavor to obey the oracle, and know himself. First, they will inform him that he has a Bodily structure, a Body, and not less really, an indwelling Soul. The former has vital organs, such as the Head—in old English a Pate, and in low English a Noddle. Within the head is a Brain or Brains, else it will be of little use to its owner. On the top is Hair, consisting of many Hairs, which on the female head fall down in many a Curl. In front is the Fore(e)head-beneath it, the Eyes, and beneath them the Cheek. Tongue and Tooth appertain to the mouth, and so the face tapers down to the Chin. Why the nose is omitted in this inventory of the features is a mystery; so prominent a member must have a keen sense of the insult, and may be expected to set itself to scent out the cause. Alone, the head would be in a sad predicament, and owes much to the Neck in joining it to the rest of the body. The Collarbone is not to be despised, though not to compare with the Heart, the Liver, and the Bowel departments of the sys- and other surnames remind us of the Inch, Halftem. More than one Limb is demanded for the symmetry of the body; and these are forthcoming in the Arms, with the Hand and Hands -and the Leg, with its Knee and Kneebone-and last of all, the Foot, with its great Toe and the lesser Toes.

Arising out of his physical nature, man has the power of movement. He can Tarry or Travel-his motion may be Slow or Swift; but without question it will be Quick if he has to take to Flight! As a pedestrian, we speak of his Gait, which may be Stiff or Easy, Awkward or full of Grace. He may Saunter or Skip, he may Waddle or Dance. Should he Jump and Slide, he may chance to Trip. Should he Go-lightly, he is the better able to Flitt from place to place. If he acts the equestrian, he will regulate the pace at which to Ride. His horse may be an Ambler, or he can make it Canter and Trot, or put it to the Gallop. If it should prance or Kick, it may Fling him from his saddle, and for that day at least his exercise would be likely to Cease.

As man is endowed with vocal organs, we are not surprised that while he can be Silent, he may also make a Noise; animal like he may Bray, or Howl, or Screech; or, using the faculty of speech, he can Chatt so volubly as to pass for a Chattaway. In private, he may Grumble, or, worse still, become a Tattler. In public, he may be little better than a Bawler; yet should he stammer, he will be less likely to indulge in Twaddle. When able to Sing and to Chant, he is provided with the means of gratification, exhilarating and innocuous.

Differences of physical appearance are often very striking. Some are Tall and Large, others Short and Small. Of some we speak as Thick, Fatt, or Stout; of others as Slight, Slender, or even Gaunt. To be Bandy is seldom the result of anything but neglectful nursing.

But human nature is the subject of deep emotions, and these, both the brighter and darker, are of innumerable shades. Pain becomes Anguish; Care deepens into Fear-this into Dread. Sudden Fright is rarely so injurious as settled Grief. The Anger which smokes may flame into Wrath and burst into Fury. On the contrary, there is an Affection that must Gladden every observer. A Happy state of mind may rise into Joy, and this feeling culminates in Bliss. All emotions when intense cause the nervous system to Tremble with the excitement they produce.

As a moral being, man is capable of Virtue and Vice; Courage and Zeal may be displayed for any purpose; but Faith or Verity, with Peace, Patience, Prudence, Hope, and Love, are most frequently associated with that which is noblest in human life. Overagainst these, however, is Evil in the form of Folly, Vice, and Crime. Rant, Cant, and Fudge, are at all times vexatious; but the Amour that depraves, the Gambling that inames, and the Spite that turns the milk of human kindness into gall, leave a heavier Blott, and diffuse a deadlier Blight. Philosophers divide all moral qualities into Good or Base; and there is no sane mind which is Blank in this respect. It is possible to meet with some Badman, who is so Vile as to be a moral Blackamore—as here and there some may seem Allgood, and Perfect, or Fault-less. Few would be disposed to apologise for the Wanton, the Prigg or Tricker, the Rake. the Scamp in general, the Swindler in particu lar, or the Tippier, who may be all in one. These, if Found or Caught, would be in some Danger of tasting the rigors of the law; but perhaps as much moral evil and discontent are occasioned by other parties deemed less culpable-as by the Vain, the Sly, the Proud, the Greedy, and the idle. It is not considered much Amiss to be Lax, Careless, or Cross; but the consequences are deplorable enough. Many a Bonefellow and Meanwell has made a sorry figure in the world. The Innocent as infancy is not our lot; but to be Meek and Gentle to all, Humble in spirit, Constant and Faithful to our promises, Kind even to our enemiesthis is possible; and in proportion as we Excell in these qualities shall we be deemed Trusty and Worthy; and he who is Good to man and Godly towards his Maker, has no cause to fear. In disposition, what varieties do the walks of life exhibit! The Coldman is apt to make his neighbor the Chillman, till the Merryman appears. It is natural to some to be Bold, Val liant, Gallant, and Doughty; another is pre-disposed to act the Coward. The man of Brag talks as a Bouncer, but seldom develops into the Boxer. One is Trim and Stiff; a third is Easy. The Coy and Dainty may be set against the Jolly and the Eager; while it is possible for the Lively man to have so much of the Fussey about him as to be far from Pleasant in

society-even a Pester and a Bore. Intellectually considered, we perceive one man to be Ready with an argument, and able Cleverly to conduct it, while another has but a Faint or Crude conception of what it means. The Brightman, the Wise, and the Witty, to whom we must add the men of Pancy and the Bard, are the companions we seek, being as anxious to shun the society of the Muff, the Dolt, the Draft, as of him whose former acuteness has been Dulled by long excess.

tionships, and these are pretty fully expressed by the following terms—Male, Baby, Suckling, Child. Bratt, Boy, Daughters, Marriage, and Jury—its pleasures by Fee—and one of its results by Fines.

The science of medicine is celebrated under the homely name of Physick. The Pothecary and his Pill are not far apart. A Hospital, indeed, leaves the mind free to roam over

which Fathers of Families may be prepared to treat with relative amenity and good will.

Eating and drinking constitute so important a portion of human occupation, that a liberal inventory of articles of fare may be ex-pected in the surnames of the land. Meats of the Flesh description are plentiful-Gammon of Bacon, Ham, Veal, Mutton, and Giblett; with liberty to Frizzle, Fry, or Stew them. Every variety of Fish and Fowl is also present -from Turtle down to Trout, and from Chicken up to Goose. Eggs are at hand, with Mustard. Pepper, and Pickles as condiments. Cabbage and Butter are not lacking, with Pease and many a Spice besides. Rice as a pudding is on the board. As a dessert, every kind of fruit is in waiting—the Date, Figg. Cherry, Almond, Nut, Orange, Peach, Plum, Raisin, Grapes, &c. For tea, there are Cake, Cakebread, Muffin, Bunn, Honey, and Sugars, of every name. Of drinks there is no stint. The temperance man has his Wells and Streams, with the addition of Congo and other sorts of Tea, also Coffee and Milk; and the lover of intoxicating liquor is placed in bazardous proximity to his Gin or Punch, his Wines, yelept Port, Sherry, and Claret, and his Malt compounds of Beer and Porter. Tart, Sweet, and Mellow are borrowed from man's sense or taste, as Round and Square to his sense of touch.

Wearing apparel and domestic articles, from a Bodkin to a Broom, are represented by a long array of names. His sight is regaled with a diversity of colors—exclusive of the ordinary Browns, Blacks, and Greens-such as the various Blues of sky and water-Gray, Purple, Red, Yellow, and White the nondescript. But man is also a numbering animat-a capacity which in its highest developments separates him from the brute; hence we proceed from the Unit to Tw o, Twin, Double, Treble, Trip-lett, up to Twelves, Eighteen, Forty, and Million. Scarce, Few, Much, and Muchmore are indefinite terms in common use. Man, too, is a dealer in money-a propensity which is here indicated by the foreign Ducat, the obsolete Mite, the Farthing, Halfpenny, Penny, Twopenny, and Pound.

He distinguishes times and seasons-as Day and Night, and can even imagine a Doubleday. Halfnight is familiar to him. Dark gives place to Dawn, and so on to Noon and Vesper, till the daily course is run. The succession of time is marked by Early, Late. Later, Last. Monday and Friday are recorded, and Middleweek instead of Wednesday. Weeks appear, as also January and May, among the months. Midwinter and Winter, Northeast and West, are remembered, besides every other point of the compass. Man can measure things to an Ace; yard, Yard, Ell, Furlong, and Halfacre. The and Dusnel: apothecary, his Grain; the liquor merchant, his Gallon, Firkin, and Butt.

Of minerals there is a Tressure—the native Copper and artificial Brass, followed by Silver, Gold, Pearl, Ruby, and Diamond.

Our form of Government is a limited monarch, and the English have a high respect for Rank. The Court is in public favor, for though we have no Rex, we have a Monarch who nobly wears the Crown, and is allied to a Prince who does honor to his Royal station. In contrast with the preceding are a batch of

names that call up anything but cheerful images. The Deadman is the notion of Death, (also Mort,) and the funeral Knell tolls his Coffin to the Grave. Murther call us to meditate on the Graves that single crime has dug. A long list of surnames descriptive of tame and wild beasts, birds, and insects. fishes and fowls, trees and flowers, must be omitted, or reserved for another occasion. In bringing up

the rear of these remarks, Catchaside, Godbe-

lieve, Gotobed, Maybee, Sneezum, will serve

as a few examples of the oddities sprinkled over this list of 2,000 words. Nothing can now be said of the ridiculous combination of Christian and surnames frequently to be met with. To call a child, for instance, whom we knew, "Napoleon Chick," was just pinning to the poor boy a life-long joke. Family names cannot be easily changed: but parents may avoid, by a little exercise of judgment, increasing the laughable and absurd associations which are already too freely mixed up with the nomenclature of our native

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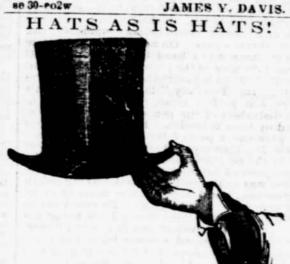
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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Land Warrant No. 14.472 for 160 acres of land, issued under the act of Congress of February 11, 1847, in the name of Julius King, has been lost and that six weeks after the date hereof application will be made to the Pension Office for a duplicate thereof. All persons are cautioned against purchasing the same, as a caveat has been filed in the General Land Office against issuing a patent.

Washington City, Sept. 8, 1858. se 10-lawsw

Washington City, Sept. 8, 1858.

BERMAN BLAU,

UPHOLSTERER,

No. 284 G street, near Treasury Department,
in gratefully acknowledging the liberal patromage
which has heretofore been bestowed upon his efforts
to please his patrons, bers leave to inform the citizons of Washington and Gaugetown that he is
now prepared to execute with neatness and dispatch
all orders in his line of business; such as the Sewing. Fitting, and Laying Down of new Carpets,
and the Laying Down of old Carpets; the Hanging
of Curtains; the Covering of Lounges, Bofas, &c:
the Manufacture or Renovation of Mattresses,
Pillows, Cushions, &c.

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Patented Carpet Stretcher, which enables him to
put down Carpets with unprecedented amoothness
and rapidity.

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Having been engaged in manufacturing Ladies'
Misses', and Children's Shoes for
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know by this time what will suit them in that line,
and can safely say that we do; which you can prove
by giving our work a trial. You can find (at all times
the articles at the principal Shoe Stores in Washington city—the Shoes so well-known as J. W.
McCurdy & Son's Philadelphia make.

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I am prepared to compete with the best manu facturers, in proof of which, read the following Report of the Committee at the Fair of the Metropolitan Mechanics' Institute for 1857:

Topham & Norflet deposited a Sole-leather Trunk that is, for solidity and quality of material the best on exhibition.

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WASHINGTON, D. C.

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